



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Senegal River in French West Africa. From the spirited preface by M. E. Tisserand to the closing paragraph the report breathes a strong note of optimism, and frequent comparisons are made between the valley of the Senegal and that of the Nile.

Irrigation in the region of the Senegal is largely a matter of the future. At present the production of rice and sorghum, the chief food crops, is scarcely sufficient to support the sparse native population of some 200,000.

The Senegal, a river nearly 1,000 miles long, rises in a range of low mountains southwest of Dakar, flowing thence northwest and west into the ocean at St. Louis. The Niger, which has its source on the southern slope of the same range, flows a long way eastward before turning south and west. The Senegal is a sluggish stream when not in flood, its mean low-water gradient for nearly 600 miles above the mouth being about 2 inches per mile. Thus it is salty during low stage for 100 miles up stream.

The irrigable lands are composed of a blanket of silt deposited from the flood waters and of low relief. Like the valley of the Nile this silt blanket is underlain by ground water when not submerged. Much of the soil, particularly in the lower delta, is heavily charged with salt and when dry is often hard and slowly permeable to water.

M. Henry has brought together in his report a valuable collection of facts concerning the character of the soil, and the period and height of the flood discharge of the river. It is to be regretted that he has not included data from which the volume of discharge could be computed as well as facts concerning the salt content and the silt load of the stream.

The data on rainfall are comprehensive and cover a long period, but temperature data are wanting. For those who seek to support the hypothesis that deforestation causes decreased rainfall this report will be a welcome contribution.

The present agriculture of the region is described concisely, and the essentials for future development are boldly outlined. Detailed plans are suggested for control measures by which certain areas of the delta could be utilized more effectively, particularly the basin of the Lac de Guier, a basin tributary to the river about one hundred miles above its mouth.

The essential features of the proposed development are to prevent further salting of this basin by sea water and to regulate access of river flood water. The flood period extends from August to November. For the future the agricultural industries most emphasized are the production of cotton and *dâ* (*Hibiscus cannabinus* L.). The latter plant, which yields a soft fiberlike jute, is now produced by the Senegalese chiefly for local use. The present account of the plant and its production by the natives is a valuable contribution to the literature of fiber plants.

C. S. SCOFIELD

TROPICAL FORESTS AND THEIR RESOURCES IN FRENCH COLONIES

A. BERTIN. Vol. 1. **Les bois de la Côte d'Ivoire.** 176 pp.; map, ill.; Vol. 2, **Les bois du Gabon.** 304 pp.; map, ill.; Vol. 3, **La question forestière coloniale.** xx and 833 pp.; maps, diagrs., ill.; Vol. 4, **Les bois du Cameroun.** 312 pp.; maps, diagrs., ill.; Vol. 5, **Les bois de la Guyane française et du Brésil.** vi and 318 pp.; map, diagrs., ill. Mission d'Études forestières envoyée dans les colonies françaises par les ministères de la guerre, de l'armement et des colonies. Émil Larose, Paris, 1918-1920. 10 x 6½ inches.

This work describes the results of an official investigation of the forest resources of certain of the French colonies. Four of the volumes are devoted to detailed accounts of the economically important trees of the Ivory Coast (Vol. 1), Gabon (Vol. 2), Cameroons (Vol. 4), and French Guiana (Vol. 5), the last volume containing also an appendix on the timbers of Brazil. Volume 3, entitled "The colonial forestry problem" (*La question forestière coloniale*) is of more general interest both from the economic and from the phytogeographical point of view. The first part of this volume discusses the forestry situation in France, especially as affected by the war, and the necessity of drawing upon the colonial forests to supplement the home-grown supply of timber.

The second part of Volume 3 deals with the tropical forests of French West Africa, taking up in succession the Ivory Coast, Gabon, and Cameroons and describing briefly the physical geography of the forested regions, geology, human population, labor available for forest work, administrative organization of the colony, and means of transportation. There follows

an account of the general aspect of the equatorial African forest, a technical description of the timber resources, and a discussion of the botanical relationships of the trees.

Part 3 is devoted to methods of exploitation, and Part 4 to the silviculture and management of the colonial forests. In Part 5 the technological classification of colonial timbers is treated, and Part 6 presents the conclusions of the mission regarding the utilization of the colonial forests.

It will be inferred from the foregoing abstract of its contents that this book is primarily of interest to foresters and persons having a manufacturing or commercial interest in tropical forest products. This follows from the definitely economic object of the mission and the circumstances under which it was organized. Professional geographers will turn to other sources for information concerning these colonies, although the student of plant geography will find in the second part of Volume 3 data on the botanical composition of the forests of tropical West Africa.

T. H. KEARNEY

THE COAST AND ISLANDS OF FORMER GERMAN EAST AFRICA

EMIL WERTH. *Das Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Küstenland und die vorgelagerten Inseln*. Vol. 1, xvi and 334 pp.; map, diagrs., ill., bibliogr.; Vol. 2, vii and 265 pp.; maps, ill., index. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1915. 10 x 7 inches.

This valuable work, describing the coast of the late German East Africa with its length of nearly 500 miles and its three large offshore islands, is based on the author's own observations, which continued over a number of years, and is extended by selections from studies of others. One of the chapters is analyzed below. The half-tone plates are good as a rule; the text figures are mediocre or poor; a bibliography of some thirty titles, some of them rather irrelevant, is given near the beginning of the first volume; the index at the end of the second is exceptionally full. There are no page headings, and the modern style of Roman type from which the book is printed is unattractive. The accompanying maps are of high value. Two are on a scale of 1:500,000, with flowing 50-meter contours, one of these showing the geology in nine colors; the other, in six colors, shows the distribution of vegetation, which seems to be closely related to the geology. A third map, on a scale of 1:2,000,000, exhibits the distribution of native culture. The plan of treatment is as follows. The first volume is occupied with a systematic account of various topics beginning with the near-shore sea (12 pp.); then come the structure and form of the coastal belt, from 20 to 40 miles wide, and of the large islands of Pemba, Zanzibar, and Mafia (88 pp.); next the climate (37 pp.), flora (57 pp.), and fauna (39 pp.); and finally the native tribes (152 pp.) and products and trade (75 pp.). The second volume is occupied with descriptions of six physiographic districts and their subdivisions, in which the topics that were separately treated in the first volume are presented in their natural relations; but the enchainment of the different topics is not brought out here so emphatically as one might wish.

The author shows himself to be broadly familiar with many subjects and sets forth much information in technical form that must be interesting to specialists in various sciences; but if the other chapters are not handled more skillfully than the chapter on geological structure and topographic form, here reviewed in some detail, they will be disappointing, even if instructive, to their readers. That chapter attempts to give a genetic account of the land forms, but the attempt is not altogether successful because the reader has to plow through too much explanatory argument before he reaches the things explained; and the plowing is sometimes difficult by reason of the involved construction of subordinate clauses. In some respects the sequence of treatment is unsatisfactory: for example, before the general features of structure and form are presented, the displacement of certain supposed fault blocks is described on a purely topographic basis but with no mention of post-faulting erosion; the reader can form no independent judgment here until after he has read later pages, and not easily then. The manner of treatment also is unsatisfactory in several sections because it does not clearly enough recognize that every structural mass has a changing surface form and that the reader cannot acquire an understanding of the districts concerned unless the present phase of changing surface form, as well as the more constant underground structure of each mass, is explicitly stated. Sometimes important details concerning structure are wanting, as in an account of the backland, where the occurrence of Jurassic and Cretaceous formations is noted but without indication of the thickness or attitude of their strata.